UNIT 2 Computers & Technology

Reading 1 The Evolution of Music Media

The Evolution of Music Media

Chances are ① that you sometimes listen to music on the radio. Maybe you've downloaded your favorite songs to your phone, but you also stream ② the latest music online. And your parents and grandparents probably have some old CDs and vinyl records. These days, we have so many music formats ③ to choose from. How did we get so many choices? Well, ever since the music industry ④ was born, companies have been trying to make it more ⑤ conveniently for people to play their favorite music when and where they choose.

1. Which of the following ①~② is grammatically incorrect?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

2. Choose the words that best complete the summary of the passage.

The music industry has made it ____(A)____ for people to enjoy music with ____(B)____ music formats.

	(A)	(B)
①	competitive	diverse
②	straightforward	diverse
③	competitive	user-friendly
④	straightforward	portable
⑤	evolution	portable

Vinyl records were the first medium for commercial music reproduction. This (A) [has been / was] the most popular music format from the 1950s until the 1990s. The standard kind of vinyl record was the LP. "LP" stands for "long play," as these were the first records that could (B) [continuous / continuously] play twenty minutes or more of music. Of course, no one could carry LPs around and listen to them on the bus or subway. Record players, or turntables, were too big. So teenagers usually gathered at a friend's house, (C) [which / where] they listened to records together. In that way, music was a social activity.

In the 1970s, Sony began selling a revolutionary device: the Walkman. This portable device allowed music lovers to take their music anywhere and listen to it privately—even in public places. The Walkman played compact audiocassette tapes, which were a new kind of music format.

3. Choose the grammatically correct words.

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	has been	continuously	which
②	was	continuous	which
③	has been	continuously	where
④	has been	continuous	where
⑤	was	continuously	where

4. What is NOT true according to the passage above?

① Vinyl records were the most popular music format for about 40 years in the 20th century.
② A vinyl LP could hold more than 20 minutes of music.
③ LPs were portable enough to listen on the public transportation.
④ Sony revolutionized the way we listened to music by releasing the Walkman in the 1970s.

⑤ The Walkman was the first portable cassette player that allowed the users to listen to music on the move.

Cassettes ① lost popularity with the introduction of the compact disc, or CD. CD technology was released in the United States in 1983, but it took until the mid-1990s for this format to ② dominate the music market. One reason is that CDs and CD players were fairly expensive at first. Also, many people thought vinyl records had a(n) ③ inferior sound. In fact, there are still some LP enthusiasts who prefer listening to records.

At the start of the 21st century, CDs held the largest portion of the market. But by 2007, sales of CDs had ④ fallen sharply as people swapped them for the new digital format, MP3. By ⑤ converting music to MP3 files, users could store several times more music on a CD. But more important was the 1997 invention of the MP3 player, and, a few years after that, the smartphone—devices that could hold thousands of songs. They allowed users to buy music online, download it, and listen to it immediately.

5. Which of the following underlined words is NOT suitable to the context?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

6. What is most likely the title of the passage?

① The Decline of the Cassettes
② The Extensive Share of the CDs
③ The Most Popular Digital Music Format
④ The History of Music Formats: From Discs to Digital
⑤ The Reasons CDs Couldn't Get Popularity from the Start

Change didn't stop there, of course. In recent years, online streaming on platforms such as YouTube and Spotify has been ① replaced downloadable MP3s as the dominant medium in places with reliable internet access. In 2018, YouTube reported ② that more than a billion people streamed music on their app each month. Both YouTube and Spotify now allow users ③ to access ad-free music streaming for a monthly fee, and the popularity of these services is growing fast.

No one knows ④ what the future holds for music media. But think about how many new formats have been invented in the past century. We can probably expect ⑤ another revolutionary new way to listen to music before very long.

7. Which of the following is grammatically incorrect?

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

8. What is most likely the title of the passage?

① Current State of the Music Industry
② How to Sell the Music in the Future
③ Online Streaming Killing the Music Industry
④ The Development of the Music Media: Still Underway
⑤ How to Reflect the Changing Face of the Music Industry

Can Musicians Still Make Money?

The technology we use to access and listen to music is constantly (A) [evolving / revolving]. And while such changes usually benefit music fans, they don't always help musicians. When the MP3 format became popular, people quickly discovered how to download music without paying for it. Piracy—getting and sharing music illegally—reduces the income that musicians make from their work. Now streaming services are reducing musical artists' profits even further.

Consumers can pay a monthly fee for streaming services that allow them to listen to an unlimited amount of music online. As a result, (B) [fewer / more] MP3s files are being purchased and downloaded. ① Internet music services must pay royalties (fees) to record companies in order to play the songs that these companies own. But most of that money is kept by the record companies, and little is left over for the musicians. ②

One songwriter and keyboardist kept track of his royalties from streaming over three months. His songs were played more than 14,000 times—but he made only $35.09. ③ Even major stars have similar experiences. Members of the British bands Led Zeppelin and Radiohead have participated in a government investigation of streaming services and their profits. ④

Of course, famous musicians can make a lot of money in other ways: by giving huge concerts, selling their songs for ads, and so on. ⑤ It is (C) [harder / easier] than ever for young musicians to share their work with the world. But with piracy and streaming, it is getting harder for them to make a living from it.

9. Where is the best place to insert the sentence below?

<u>But new and lesser-known musicians do not have these options</u>.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

10. Choose the correct words for (A), (B), and (C).

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	revolving	fewer	harder
②	revolving	more	easier
③	revolving	fewer	easier
④	evolving	more	harder
⑤	evolving	fewer	easier

Reading 2 Hackers and Crackers

Hackers and Crackers

In the Information Age, many words related to computers are used in everyday conversation. For example, almost everyone knows the word “hacker,” and to many people, this word has a _____ connotation.

Actually, hackers are excellent programmers who can write programs that are efficient and even artistic. They take great pride in their work. The term “hacker” was first used at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) around 1969. The word “hack” was already in use at MIT to describe student pranks—very creative tricks or jokes. Computers were new to universities at that time, and there were not many computer manuals available, so the students had to figure things out by themselves. In the process, they often wrote small sections of code to make programs do what they wanted. This soon became known as “hacking” because the students had to use their creativity, just as they used their creativity for their pranks.

11. Choose the word that best fits in the blank.

① optimistic
② critical
③ significant
④ negative
⑤ satirical

12. What is most likely the topic of the passage?

① The first hacker in history
② The origin of the term hacking
③ Words related to computers in daily conversation
④ The trigger for the first hacking
⑤ Hackers' creative pranks

Because of this history, hackers consider ① <u>them</u> noble and curious people.

(A) In addition, they always notify the administrator of the system ② <u>so that</u> the weakness can be fixed.

(B) In fact, hackers have an ethical belief: “do no harm.” They believe it is all right to probe a computer system for weaknesses, as long as none of the data ③ <u>is not</u> damaged.

(C) They use hacking to satisfy their curiosity and to learn new computer skills, but most ④ <u>does</u> not believe in destroying information or ⑤ <u>cause</u> trouble.

13. What is the correct order of the paragraphs after the given sentence?

① (A)-(C)-(B)
② (B)-(A)-(C)
③ (B)-(C)-(A)
④ (C)-(A)-(B)
⑤ (C)-(B)-(A)

14. Choose the one that is grammatically correct.

① ② ③ ④ ⑤

On the other hand, ____(A)____ programmers exploit weaknesses in systems. Hackers call these people "crackers." Crackers are people who break into (or crack open) computer systems with selfish motives. Sometimes they steal information, and sometimes they release viruses into the systems. Hackers are not happy when computer criminals are called hackers. Unfortunately, most people use the word "hacker" for both hackers and crackers. The actions of crackers, who are also called "black hats," give hackers a bad reputation.

Hackers are sometimes hired by companies to test computer security. This kind of hacker is called a "white hat." The white hat will try to break into the company's computer system. If he or she ____(B)____, the company can find and fix the problem. In recent years, even governments have been hiring hackers to improve national security.

15. Choose the correct words for (A) and (B).

	(A)	(B)
①	competent	succeeds
②	exceptional	fails
③	vicious	fails
④	novice	succeeds
⑤	malicious	succeeds

16. What is NOT true, according to the passage?

① Crackers are those who attempt to access computer systems without permission.
②The term "hacker" is often misused in a negative context, where "cracker" would be the correct term.
③ Crackers give hackers a bad reputation by stealing information from a company and selling the data to another.
④ Hackers and crackers break into computer systems for different purposes.
⑤ The purpose of companies hiring hackers is to make up for vulnerabilities in their computer systems.

17. What is most likely the topic of the passage?

① The impact of crackers on hackers
② The difference between hackers and crackers
③ The dangers of hacking
④ Definition of hackers and crackers
⑤ A common goal of hackers and crackers

Hackers spend a lot of time developing technology. In fact, if it were not for hackers, the only programs available to computer users would be (A) [expensive / moderate] ones from companies like Microsoft. Who do you think writes those freeware programs we download? For example, the popular Mozilla Firefox browser was developed by hackers. Hackers have also (B) [distributed / contributed to] the Linux operating system, as well as many other open-source programs. They spend hundreds of hours working on projects and receive no pay at all.

Hackers are the misunderstood heroes of modern culture. (C) [But for / Thanks to] them, we would not have such excellent computer systems. While there are some unethical crackers in the world, we should be careful not to blame hackers for what crackers do.

18. Choose the correct words for (A), (B), and (C).

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	moderate	contributed to	But for
②	moderate	distributed	But for
③	moderate	contributed to	Thanks to
④	expensive	distributed	Thanks to
⑤	expensive	contributed to	But for

Bugs, Worms, and Viruses

Most people use popular words like “bug,” “worm,” and “virus” all the time. But have you ever wondered exactly what they mean or where these terms come from?

Even in Thomas Edison’s time, problems with electrical devices were called “bugs.” No one knows why this word was used, but the word gained new popularity in 1945. A famous computer expert was investigating a problem and found a moth (A) [was trapped / trapped] in her computer. When she removed the moth, she called it a “bug.” Nowadays, a problem with a computer or program is called a “bug,” and the process of solving the problem is called “debugging.”

A “worm” is a program that searches for and (B) [uses / use] information on your computer. The word comes from John Brunner’s 1975 science-fiction novel, The Shockwave Rider. In the novel, “worms” could replicate themselves, just as real worms can. The term was made (C) [popular / popularly] in the computing community by engineers at a Xerox research center in 1979. They used the word to describe a short program that could search a network for idle processors. Today, worms travel through email and steal personal data from our computers.

The term “virus” came from a student at the University of Southern California in 1983. He used the word to describe a program that could change other programs. Often, viruses replicate themselves and cause damage—just like biological viruses.

19. Choose the grammatically correct words.

	(A)	(B)	(C)
①	was trapped	use	popular
②	was trapped	uses	popularly
③	trapped	uses	popular
④	trapped	use	popularly
⑤	was trapped	uses	popular

20. What is NOT true, according to the passage?

① Even Edison used the term "bug" to refer to a problem with electrical devices.
② The computer term "bug" originates from a moth.
③ The meaning of the "worm" in the past was different from that of today.
④ A "worm" steals personal information through email.
⑤ Unlike "worms", viruses can replicate themselves.

Answer Key

1. ⑤

2. ②

3. ⑤

4. ③

5. ③

6. ④

7. ①

8. ④

9. ⑤

10. ⑤

11. ④

12. ②

13. ⑤

14. ②

15. ⑤

16. ③

17. ②

18. ⑤

19. ③

20. ⑤